

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	23/01/2014
Inspector	Robin Whistlecraft
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	22/07/2013
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This children's home is privately owned. It is registered to provide care and accommodation for five children with emotional and/or behavioural difficulties.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Good progress	The children's home has demonstrated continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the large majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Satisfactory progress	The children's home has maintained quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Inadequate progress	The children's home has failed to address one or more requirements and/or has not met the majority of recommendations and/or the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people have declined since the last full inspection.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good progress**.

At the last inspection in July 2013, the overall quality rating of the home was judged as adequate with three requirements and three recommendations for areas for improvement. The home's management have addressed all of the requirements and all of the recommendations. The home has also improved its quality of care and young people are making progress.

The provider has revised the home's Statement of Purpose. The threshold for admission was for young people who have managed to stabilise their behaviours through previous method of behaviour management and assistance. The threshold is now for young people who have '... started to engage with methods of behaviour management and assistance with their emotional needs.' This introduces the potential for the home to accommodate young people who are more challenging. However, the provider has given the Registered Manager autonomy in making admission decisions. The home's management has demonstrated that they carry out careful impact risk assessments before agreeing to accommodate a young person. This includes deciding against accommodating young people with a clear potential to have an adverse impact on the home and existing young people. This indicates that the home manages admission decisions in the best interests of the young people

already accommodated.

At the last inspection, the home had experienced, over time, a number of incidents of challenging behaviour. Some of these were by young people from another of the provider's homes. Since the last inspection, the home has experienced significantly fewer incidents of challenging behaviour. In addition, the home has received no direct complaints from neighbours about noise or offensive language. An advisory visit by the local environmental health department did not result in any further action. These factors indicate that managers and staff are improving the strategies they are using to address challenging behaviour. As a result, young people are making progress in the home. Some young people have improved their attendance and engagement with their education, and others have maintained their level of engagement. Some young people demonstrate their skills and trustworthiness sufficiently to gain regular part time work on a farm.

The home has introduced a detailed and systematic programme for assessing and coaching young people for independence. Through this approach, the young people develop skills and confidence in their independence skills.

Observed practices demonstrated staff focussing on young people and celebrating progress. A young person described how staff were there for the young people. Managers maintain continuity of the staff working with young people despite having gaps caused by vacancies. Managers carry out the required pre-recruitment checks on prospective staff members before allowing them to work with young people. Staff understand their responsibilities if they suspect or receive an allegation about a young person being abused. This means that the home operates procedures in order to safeguard and promote young people's welfare. Young people confirmed that they felt safe in the home and that there was no bullying.

Managers maintain the home as a pleasantly decorated and well-maintained environment. Since the last inspection a computer for young people to use for homework and research has been installed. If there are problems with the home's internet connection staff supervise young people to use a computer in the staff office. Managers have, as recommended, introduced a contingency plan should an emergency cause the home to become uninhabitable. These factors illustrate how the home assures young people of appropriate accommodation.

The provider monitors the conduct of the home through an independent visitor who provides written reports. Managers in the home take action in response to recommendations and comments made in those reports. The home's management carries out internal reviews of the quality of care provided by the home. These reviews clearly analyse relevant records and identify the home's strengths and actions for areas where improvements are possible. Managers have introduced initiatives to improve the quality of care in the home. For example, surveys to gather feedback from young people and other agencies. In addition, managers have arranged weekly on site consultations with the provider's psychological support services. They use these to continually refine or revise behaviour management strategies and develop staff understanding of young people's behaviour. These

systems and initiatives demonstrate how managers are committed to the continual improvement of care in the home.

About this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service and to consider how well it complies with the relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the progress made by the provider since the last full inspection, identifies any further strengths, any areas for improvement and makes judgements as outlined in the *Inspection of children's homes – framework for inspection*.